688 E. Main Street Branford, CT 06405-2971 Phone: 203-208-1918 Fax: 203-433-4068

February 27, 2012

To the Connecticut Legislature:

We are co-founders of AxioMx, Inc., a 12 person biotechnology firm in Branford, CT and we support and urge approval of An Act Establishing a Fund for Bioscience Innovation (Governor's Bill No. 838).

AxioMx is the third company in which we have been executives that has benefited from an investment by Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CI). The two previous companies (CuraGen Corporation and Affomix Corporation) became large local employers and returned a profit on the investment that CI was able to reinvest in other opportunities. Seeding innovation and the establishment of new companies is a proven method for stimulating local economic development.

With Yale University and UConn, large pharmaceutical companies and numerous biotechnology startups, Connecticut has a strong bioscience industry. However, this is an industry undergoing rapid technical advances and change. Other states are investing heavily to create bioscience ecosystems and to attract and develop life science companies. To remain competitive, Connecticut needs to similarly nurture innovation in our state. The proposed \$200 million Bioscience Innovation Fund is one such step in that direction.

We heartily endorse its creation!

Sincerely,

Christopher K. McLeod

Michael Weiner, Ph. D.

CEO

CSO